

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 310830
ORIGIN SS-25

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S/S - MR. REDDY
S - MR. PASSAGE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 310830

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XF US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH ARAB AMBASSADORS
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23

1. SECRETARY MET DECEMBER 23 WITH AMBASSADORS OF SOMALIA, EGYPT, MOROCCO, AND SYRIA AT THEIR REQUEST TO MAKE PRESENTATION ON BEHALF OF ALL ARAB DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER REPORTS ABOUT RECENT PERES TALKS HERE AND PROSPECTS OF NEW ISRAELI ARMS ACQUISITIONS. SOMALI AMBASSADOR, AS SENIOR AMBASSADOR, INTRODUCED SUBJECT BUT GHORBAL OF EGYPT DID MOST OF THE TALKING FOR ARABS.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 310830

2. IN RESPONDING, SECRETARY EMPHASIZED U.S. COMMITMENT TO PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE IN 1977, WHICH HE STRESSED WAS NOT A PARTISAN ISSUE IN U.S. SECRETARY COMMENTED ON QUESTIONS ABOUT PERES' VISIT BY STATING THAT NO DECISIONS WERE REACHED DURING VISIT ON NEW ARMS SALES.

3. AMBASSADORS NEVERTHELESS PURSUED THEME THAT MERE PROSPECT OF NEW ARMS DELIVERIES FROM USG MAKES ISRAEL MORE INTRANSIGENT, INDEED THAT DELIVERIES ON COMMITMENTS ALREADY MADE EVEN INTO 1979 MAKES IT SEEM THAT ISRAEL WILL NOT BE WILLING TO MAKE PEACE BEFORE 1979.

4. SECRETARY RESPONDED THAT WE CANNOT WAIT UNTIL 1979 FOR PROGRESS IN PEACE EFFORT. HE TOLD AMBASSADORS THAT HE WAS CONVINCED THAT SERIOUS, REALISTIC AND CONCRETE TALKS MUST BEGIN IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1977.

5. GHORBAL COMPLETED ARAB PRESENTATION BY ASKING USG TO RECALL PATTERN OF ISRAELI BEHAVIOR IN PAST AND KEEP THAT IN MIND IN CONSIDERING FUTURE ARMS BUDGETING FOR ISRAEL.

6. GHORBAL'S REMARKS TO PRESS AFTER MEETING, AND DEPARTMENT'S PRESS GUIDANCE USED IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES, ARE BEING REPORTED SEPTEL.
KISSINGER

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NNN

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